

1 **Abstract:**

2 An electronic e-mail system where messages contain information carried by digital
3 watermarks. The digital watermarks are used to control the transmission and/or receipt of
4 documents transmitted over system. The invention can be used to prevent the accidental
5 dissemination of information to unauthorized receivers. Furthermore, while no security
6 system is fool-proof, the present invention helps guards against the intentional, but
7 unauthorized, dissemination of confidential information to unauthorized receivers.

8

09784391.021501